





THE WORLD: The white part showing THE PACIFIC STATES.







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# THE HISTORICAL WORKS

OF

HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT,

IN THEIR RELATION TO THE

PROGRESS AND DESTINY OF THE PACIFIC COAST.

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At the dawn of civilization there were set in motion two human streams, which took opposite directions from the Asiatic cradle of the race; one flowing eastward through India and China to the Pacific coast of Asia, and the other flowing westward through Europe, and across the Atlantic, finding its way finally over the new-found continent to the Pacific coast of America. Here both must forever rest, their further progress being barred by the same great ocean. Conquest and colonization on any considerable scale are at an end. The world is for the most part occupied by the dominant races, at least all the better portions of it. There are no more good, fertile lands in the temperate zone to be had for nothing, or at merely nominal prices.

The first mentioned current of humanity, proceeding eastward from Egypt, or Armenia, reached the eastern border of Asia at a comparatively early day, and before any very high plane of intelligence or refinement had been reached. And in this half-civilized stagnant state the people of eastern Asia have ever since remained. Very different was the fate of the other stream, which became cleansed and purified all along its course. To the arts and refinement of Greece were added the literature and learning of Rome, and the practical inventions of western Europe; so that when the men of Spain and England first stood upon the shores of the Pacific, they were second in energy and intelligence to none the sun shines upon. Here, indeed, was a

grand beginning for a great commonwealth, or rather for a number of commonwealths. What visions of empires filled the brain of the chivalrous Spaniards, under Vasco Nuñez de Balboa, as they first gazed upon the placid waters of the South Sea! And how was fired the enthusiasm of Hernan Cortés as he built ships on the western coast of Mexico for northern explorations! Later the friars of St. Francis marched along the shore, and established their line of missions from San Diego to San Francisco Bay. Then men of Anglo-Saxon origin crossed the continent farther north, and hunted for furs in the region drained by the River Columbia; establishing posts north to Fraser River and beyond. Missionaries also came to teach the tribes of the Willamette, and those living on the tributaries of the great rivers to the north. Gold was on every side discovered, and men, who afterward became settlers, came rushing in for immediate riches. And on the coast nearest Asia, the Cossacks from Russia landed, after a century-march through Siberia. Thus was European occupation established throughout the Pacific portion of North America, and thus it happened that the men who laid here the foundations of empires were among the most intelligent and enterprising in the world.

And in regard to the fitness of these lands for the occupation of man, surely there is no fairer or more healthful strip of earth than this western terminus of migrating civilization. Of these Pacific States of North America, including within that category all of Mexico and Central America, and onward along the Pacific slope to Alaska; with fertile soils, and temperate airs, a protecting range of mountains in the background while opening in front upon an ocean whose waters wash the four corners of the earth, with agricultural possibilities almost unlimited and millions of mineral wealth yet unearthed, there may be made an imperial paradise. What benefits and blessings of nature are here lacking that may be found on any other part of this planet? With such a people so environed there is no reason why there should not in due time appear on these shores nations among the foremost in the world; nations that shall dominate the world; nations whose history will be of vital interest, not only to the people themselves, but to the world, as any which have hitherto been written. To some it may seem that Greece and Rome and England have exercised a broader and deeper influence



upon the destinies of man than will ever Mexico or Oregon, Central America or California; but we cannot tell. We cannot tell how near the all-knowable and eternal may yet come to man, nor on what chosen spot of earth will the sublimest culture next favor. The civilizations of antiquity flourished while yet the world was small, and thought circumscribed. When Utah shall have had three or five thousand years of national life, perhaps her annals will tell of more benefits to the race than those of Egypt can now boast. But aside from any question of relative importance, what can be of more transcendent interest and value to a nation than its own early history, which tells of its origin, its growth, its trials and temptations, its failures and successes, the almost insurmountable obstacles it has overcome, and its final prosperity and happiness? Men gather gold and sit down to count it; they seize lands and cultivate them; they build houses and fill them, calling it all wealth, and the nation, having many such members, rich and prosperous. But the true wealth of a nation lies in its accumulated experiences, its storehouses of knowledge, and the hearts and minds of a free and intelligent people. These are the kind of acquisitions that history encourages; the quality of development that history accomplishes. What is a nation without a history, without its experiences placed on record to be preserved in an enduring form? Even half civilized peoples have their holy book, their national book, half superstition, half invention, though always containing something true of their past; and savages have their myths, though they may not record them. It is one of the strongest instincts of man thus to remember and preserve, to recite or read the doings of his forefathers. Thus it is that as the world makes history, men are found to record it. As soon as they can write, and long before, they seek to place in permanent form the annals of their nation, and the deeds of their ancestors. The conditions are vastly different under which the histories of the several peoples of the world have been begun and carried on. Some histories have no beginning, no clearly defined starting-point, being obscured by the mists of antiquity; others have knowledge of the nation's inception, the causes that engendered it, and the hour of its birth.

The advantages to us of the recorded experiences of the race are manifold and obvious. With a knowledge of the origin of

human societies, and the ways and means by which they grow and become great and prosperous, we may learn to adopt their virtues and avoid their errors. It is the possession of such knowledge, and the arts and sciences which are sure to accompany and flow from it, that constitutes the difference between civilization and savagism. Unless events are placed upon record they are quickly forgotten; savages cannot record them; therefore they have no past, no foundation laid, or any structure of knowledge begun, to which generation after generation may add its quota; and so they cannot progress, or if at all very slowly. Further than this there is palpable and direct money value in it for the nation, and for every individual having a stake in the country, this placing on the shelves of every important library in the world, and in the hands of thousands of intelligent and influential men everywhere, a full and reliable account of what has been, what is, and what may be.

If this be true—and no intelligent person will for a moment question the general correctness of the proposition—then the labors of the historian are second in importance to none, and they should be entrusted only to able and truth-loving men. Let us glance briefly at the life and literary undertakings of Mr Hubert Howe Bancroft, and see what just claims, if any, he may have as an earnest and honest historian.

Mr Bancroft was born at Granville, Ohio, the 5th of May 1832. His younger days were spent in work and study. At the age of sixteen he entered a bookstore in Buffalo, New York, as clerk. In 1852 the proprietor sent him to California to open business there. Having strong and intelligent literary tastes, he began at once collecting everything within reach on the history and physical features of the country of his adoption, though with no definite object in view. He saw that on the Pacific coast was already well begun the building of empire on a mighty magnificent scale. Material for the history of the republics and states thus planted could then be secured, and saved, much of which would otherwise soon be lost. To many important and still unrecorded events there were yet remaining living witnesses, who would soon pass away, carrying much valuable knowledge with them, unless it was by some one rescued from oblivion. Much could then be saved which in ten or twenty years would be forever lost.



Mr Bancroft saw all this ; and although he felt that one man in such a vast field could accomplish but little, yet he would do what he could. There was no one else at hand to attempt the labor, or even to assist in it. All were eager after money, and, indeed, Mr Bancroft had his fortune to make before he could accomplish his grand purpose, for he was still a young bookseller with very limited capital.

As his business prospered, he applied himself to the task in good earnest. He purchased every book, map and manuscript printed or written within his territory, or elsewhere, relating to it, that could be found in California and Oregon, in Mexico and Central America, and in the eastern United States. He visited Europe several times, searching thoroughly the chief cities in person, and appointing purchasing agents there. Six years thus passed, during which time were secured 10,000 volumes, among which were most of the standard chronicles, such as Oviedo, Peter Martyr, Las Casas and Gomara, with all the later standard histories like Herrera, Robertson and Alaman, with large collections of printed documents, such as Ternaux-Compans, Izcabalceta, Documentos Inéditos, and the like, and also many original manuscripts. Next, and while still continuing the work of general collecting, Mr Bancroft began taking the dictations of pioneers, settlers, and statesmen ; going out himself and sending his assistants, until the leading men, those who had helped to make the history of their country, throughout the entire length and breadth of his vast territory, had been invited to contribute their experiences. This labor resulted in thousands of manuscripts containing the deeds and reminiscences of as many living witnesses, all of course absolutely original, and nowhere else existing. To these were added copies of county, state, and national archives, made at a great expenditure of money, while huge piles of original documents, public and private, were secured from other collectors, and from the descendants of old and patriotic Spanish families, whose members had sometime played an important part in history. These were collected and bound in thick folio volumes, and constitute the most invaluable material for history.

The field thus covered is equal in area to one-twelfth of the earth's surface ; and we venture to assert that never since the world was made, have the early annals of any nation, or

important section, been so thoroughly, so conscientiously, and so intelligently gathered. This statement is made not without reflection, nor in a boastful spirit. It is given simply as a fact, and one capable of the fullest demonstration. We do not say that a hundred others might not have done the work as well or better than Mr Bancroft; or that a hundred others did not see golden opportunity slipping from their grasp; we simply affirm that he alone seized upon the occasion, and stepped in and accomplished the task at the only time and in the only way in which it could be thus so fully and successfully accomplished, and that timely labor of such quantity and quality has never been performed for any other people.

To elucidate: This work of collecting has been going on for twenty-five years. The collection numbers 36,000 volumes, and additions are being made at the rate of about 1000 volumes a year. It constitutes a magazine of priceless treasures, which, if properly preserved, is destined to exercise its influence upon this coast throughout all time. Some of the territory covered dates its history back four hundred years ago, more than a century before the pilgrim fathers landed on Plymouth Rock; but the greater part of it was comparatively new when Mr Bancroft began his labors. The whole country was old enough to have a history, but not so old that the beginning of things, by diligent search, could not be found. There were at the time many men living who had contributed of their intelligence and energy to fashion the early history of their country, and there are some such yet remaining, though they are rapidly passing away. The work of collecting could not have been successfully begun much earlier, as there would have been nothing to collect; it could not have been longer delayed, or much of it would have been lost. And again we assert, that how much soever has been left undone, what is done has never been equaled in any other age or nation. For the greater safety of the collection, Mr Bancroft, in 1881, erected a two-story, fire-proof building on Valencia street, in the city of San Francisco, where his literary labors are at present conducted. Thus was consummated the work of collecting—of creating, we might almost say—this library. For large portions of it were called into existence by Mr Bancroft; and other considerable portions, but for him, would ere this have dropped into oblivion. At an almost



infinite outlay of labor and pains, of time and money, by one man, unaided by any individual society or government, innumerable human experiences have been gathered, which cannot fail to be of the greatest benefit to mankind for generations to come; and if this were all we might safely say that Mr Bancroft had successfully accomplished one of the most important labors possible for man to engage in.

But this is not all. Very far from it. All that had been accomplished thus far was but preliminary to yet greater undertakings. In its crude and original form, the knowledge Mr Bancroft had gathered could be of but little practical value to the people at large; it must first be threshed and winnowed, and the precious grains separated. To this end Mr Bancroft determined to write a series of historical works in 39 volumes, which should embody such historical information as was worth preserving, and which was originally contained in the 36,000 volumes of his library. This would place within the reach of all, in compact form, and at comparatively small cost, the sum and essence of this magnificent collection, which had been gathered from the four quarters of the earth at the cost of so many years of labor, and so many hundreds of thousands of dollars in money. Something, however, besides time and money must be forthcoming properly to write history. Had Mr Bancroft the ability? This remained to be proven. He himself did not know; he had an almost overwhelming desire, for he regarded the writing of history as one of the highest occupations of man; but he could only make the endeavor. This important question is being answered to-day, as the volumes of his history appear, by the press of America and Europe, wherein is paid him the highest tributes of praise. Nor have the brightest scholars of the world, such as Draper, Dana, and Lowell, in America, and in England, Helps, Lecky, and Herbert Spencer been backward in their acknowledgments. It is universally conceded that the clear and condensed narrations of Mr Bancroft, from such a wealth of original material as was never before dreamed of by any writer of history, and which, were it accessible to all, would be wholly beyond the reach even of its possessor except by methods originated and employed by Mr Bancroft, and which will be herein shortly explained; it is universally conceded, we repeat, that history so written from material so gathered, and by

a method so thorough must forever constitute the foundation of Pacific States history, the bottom facts of our historic superstructure, built from the ground upwards, and which never can be ignored or undermined.

Thus far we have examined the origin of history and its advantages to the human race ; we have alluded to the position of the Pacific States, their destinies, and the effect on them of Mr Bancroft's labors ; we have shown how he gathered his material, and have inquired into his fitness for his self-imposed task. We will now enumerate the several series comprising the complete works of Mr Bancroft ; then explain the method by which so vast a labor has been accomplished by one man ; and last of all we will respectfully present Mr Bancroft's claims for the sympathy and support of all good men.

The grand central figure of Mr Bancroft's literary undertaking is the *History of the Pacific States of North America*. Introductory to the history is *The Native Races of the Pacific States*, in five volumes, vol. I being devoted to the wild tribes of the entire territory ; vol. II, The civilized nations of Mexico and Central America ; vol. III, Myths and Languages ; vol. IV, Antiquities ; vol. V, Primitive History. Then comes the history proper, subdivided as follows: Central America, 3 vols ; Mexico, 6 vols ; North Mexican States, 2 vols ; New Mexico and Arizona, 1 vol ; California, 7 vols ; Nevada, 1 vol ; Utah, 1 vol ; Northwest Coast, 2 vols ; Oregon, 2 vols ; Washington, Idaho, and Montana, 1 vol ; British Columbia, 1 vol ; Alaska, 1 vol. The series concludes with the following supplementary volumes, all on kindred topics, but which could not be embodied in the history proper ; namely, *California Pastoral*, being life and society under the missionaries from Mexico, 1 vol ; *California Inter Pocula* ; or times during the gold mining epoch, 1 vol ; *Popular Tribunals*, 2 vols, containing the doings of Vigilance Committees ; *Essays and Miscellany* ; and *Literary Industries*, or the history of Mr Bancroft's literary labors. All these works are written in an interesting and attractive style and so as to command the attention of both old and young.

Mr Bancroft had been collecting some ten years before he fully made up his mind thus to place his priceless information within



the reach of all, in the form of thoroughly condensed and well-written history. Once determined on this course, he set about its accomplishment with all the energy of his nature. He had spent thus far, not counting his own time or traveling expenses, some \$300,000, and the writing and putting in type of his proposed series would involve an outlay, in addition to many long years of the severest toil and self-denial, of over \$400,000 more. The cost of manufacturing the books from the stereotype plates must be added to these amounts.

It was the severest labor of the kind ever undertaken by a private individual. There are few governments which would not hesitate over the outlay, even to accomplish such magnificent results. But there is no government in Christendom, even were it willing to spend the money, that could accomplish the results. It required the single-minded efforts of a brave, determined man; of a man at once willing, able, and possessed of the means sufficient for the purpose. Besides courage, an iron will, and persistent application, he must have a true and heartfelt love for the work; an enthusiasm that no difficulties could dampen, and no discouragements extinguish; and he must have the health which would carry him through the ordeal. These are conditions which no government possesses, involving qualities which no money can buy. All the required conditions and qualities could not be found in one man out of a million. Business instincts and experience were as essential as literary tastes and intellectual ability; there must be time as well as inclination; habits of application were as necessary as stores of physical strength; the work could no more be accomplished without money than without mind; hence it is safe to say, that if Mr Bancroft had not undertaken this work, no one else would have done so, for in him alone seems to have been centered all the requirements.

But with all the qualifications, and all the other conditions provided for, how was it possible to accomplish in a single lifetime work sufficient to occupy one man at least three hundred years? Authorship involves something more than the mingling with a magic wand of time and money, and the speaking into existence of a series of thoroughly digested and well-executed volumes. After due consideration, having resolved on the undertaking, Mr Bancroft turned over to his brother, Mr A. L.

Bancroft, the active management of a large and successful business which had been built up, still retaining his interest in the same, however. He then engaged a score of competent assistants and went to work. First the entire library was indexed as you would index one book. This occupied on an average six persons for ten years, and cost over \$80,000. It was the only means possible by which the several topics required could be reached, and all that the several authors had said on each incident or subject brought together. Another set of men would take the references thus made by the indexers and abstract the information, which was called rough material. Still other and more competent assistants arranged and revised this rough material, sometimes dividing it into chapters; sometimes writing chapters from it; so that by every and all means the work might be placed in the hands of the author in as advanced a state as possible. Mr Bancroft then re-wrote, and revised until the work was finished. Many of the more important volumes and parts of volumes he worked out with the greatest toil alone, not trusting anyone even to take out the material in the rough. It is impossible fully to explain all the means and experiments, the failures and successes by which the results were reached. The difficulty of obtaining competent assistants was a serious drawback, as out of every hundred tested not more than one would be secured who could work to the general plan, evolved after years of labor from the necessities of the case.

There were maps to be made, and the incoming works of new authors to be examined and compared with what had been written, often involving months of revision, even of matter already in type. Some further idea may be gained of the thoroughness of the work, however, when we say that the entire series, notes and text, was compared with the original authorities by still other men, after the work had been put into type, but before the pages were stereotyped. In a word the means for the accomplishment of the purpose had to be devised as the emergencies arose; and it is safe to say that only by the employment of this or a like method could the work ever have been accomplished. It was a heavy strain upon his health, which several times gave way; but an iron constitution carried him through, until the completion of the herculean task was placed beyond a contingency.



In the matter of patronage, Mr Bancroft does not present himself in the guise of a mendicant. He has given his time, and has poured forth his money freely; he would not recall any portion of either. No thought of the cost, or of the returns, entered his mind in embarking in the work, except the general one that it would absorb the greater part of his fortune. He had been fully taught, by his experience as a publisher, that literary work of this kind does not pay. He feels, as is most natural, that if he has accomplished a meritorious work, he would like the approbation of his fellow-men. If he has conferred an important and lasting benefit on his country, and on every individual member of it, he claims that his services should be recognized.

It should be regarded not only as a duty, but as a privilege, by every patriotic and high-minded man, to aid the author of meritorious effort by every means in his power. His work should be esteemed a public benefaction, and its success of as vital importance to any other member of the commonwealth as to the author. It should be deemed a solemn duty by every father of a family to place this knowledge of his own country, accumulated with so much toil, and written with so much care, in the hands of his children, that they may grow up intelligent and respected citizens.

The price put upon the volumes, as issued, was not fixed by the cost of producing them; for every dollar the subscriber pays, the author has paid two dollars; the price was made to conform to the usual prices of volumes of similar size and character. The first consideration with the author, his primary object in publishing, was that the immense and valuable information he had obtained might be placed within the reach of all; therefore it would be defeating his own purpose to place higher than the usual price upon his works. As a matter of fact, the publishers pay the author only the usual copyright, and the returns are the least of all things that Mr Bancroft troubles himself about.

Now, we ask in all earnestness and honesty, ought not these literary undertakings of Mr Bancroft to be supported and encouraged? If the work was worth doing, if it is, as is claimed for it, and as the leading scholars and scientists throughout the world do not hesitate emphatically to pronounce it, well and thoroughly done, is it not a mistake in several ways for good men to withhold from it their support? It would certainly seem

so, and for these reasons. First of all, it is men like this and work like this—men who will do something beneficial to the commonwealth which no one else will do, and work which is elevating and improving to the minds of old and young—that make the difference between a free, enlightened, and progressive people, and an illiterate, unintelligent, revolutionary, and non-progressive people; hence they cannot afford to pass by and give the cold shoulder to such effort as this to benefit themselves and the community—else they are not high-minded and liberal men. Schools, and colleges, and seminaries of learning are supported by public and private means for the purpose of educating and informing the young. Governments employ historians and scientists, as well as generals and statesmen, and print their writings at a heavy cost to the people. Money enough to found a university has been expended on this work, and judiciously expended; not the public money, but the private means of one individual only; and it would be well to mark this, that Mr Bancroft has never asked nor received aid from any government, society, or individual, nor would he accept aid were it offered. He merely desires the better and more intelligent class to avail themselves of the benefits of his labors, and to express their opinion of them by taking a copy of the volumes into their houses and reading them, and giving them to their children to read. Thus will they exercise an influence in this community and throughout the world—an elevating and educating influence equal to that of a dozen universities.

As a matter of fact, arguments are unnecessary to prove the value to the community, and to individuals, of Mr Bancroft's work, and the necessity of supporting such efforts. The man is yet to be found who says that such a work is useless, needless; that it is not in the highest degree desirable; further than this the man is yet to be found who says the work is not well and thoroughly done. Minor criticisms have been made; but what are these beside the most extravagant praise? It is not claimed for the work that it is perfect; nothing is perfect in this world. But the chief object and effort of the author throughout his entire labors have been absolute accuracy and impartiality, freedom from error, and from religious and political bias. Indeed, the system by which he works prevents them from being far from right, for he goes by his authorities, and gives the authority for



everything he says. According to the evidence, therefore, his works cannot be inaccurate. It being admitted, then, that the work is one that ought to be done by somebody, and that somebody has come forward and accomplished it, and accomplished it well, no one will for a moment say that it ought not to be supported; no one does say so. No one says that it is not a work that every American should be proud of, or that it is not a work which they should have in the house, and in the hands of their children.

As regards the cost, a book is the cheapest thing in the world. We do not realize what the printing-press does for us. For four or five dollars a volume, one can secure what is equivalent to the entire results of Mr Bancroft's expenditure of over half a million of dollars, and a quarter of a century of time. The volumes the purchaser obtains are just as valuable in themselves, convey just as much information, and exert as powerful an influence for good as if they were the only copies in existence. Books are not like houses, or any other kind of property. You cannot print houses; you have to build each one separately from the beginning, and one costs but little more in proportion than fifty. If but one copy of Mr Bancroft's books had been made the cost of it would be, in time and money, a million of dollars. These are simple facts and figures, without exaggeration, and easily understood by all. When the matter is thus placed before good and intelligent men, we do not believe they will say they cannot afford to buy these books. They will say rather, that they cannot afford not to buy them; and they will have a pride, and a very laudable pride, in taking the volumes as they come out, in having them in their house; where they and their family can read them, and they will speak to their neighbor in terms of commendation of the author, and the works which he has done.

One word more, in conclusion. There are some who say they will take the work when it is done; that it is a good thing, a most desirable thing, in fact a necessity, and they certainly will have it in time. This fails to accomplish the purpose, either for the purchaser, the publishers, or the author. The purchaser wants the volumes to read now, as they appear; the publishers want a list of subscribers in order to enable them to meet the heavy expenditure of placing the volumes on the market, and the author

wants appreciation and acknowledgment now, and not ten or twenty years, hence, when it will be of no benefit to him.

There are some who would subscribe for part of the series, but do not care to take the whole. There are several reasons why the set should not be broken. First, it is one work, though issued under several titles, and should be read with the volumes so far as published, all at hand, there being necessarily frequent cross references. Secondly, as a complete work it has a permanent pecuniary value to the purchaser, which divided, the several sections would not have. The purchaser may rest assured that the publisher will never offer the work for sale at less than the published price ; therefore it will always possess a commercial value should he ever wish to dispose of it. Again, there is a benefit to all, in each having the entire set. If it is well for Oregon that her history should be in the hands of the people of Mexico, then it is well for Mexico that her history should be in the hands of the people of Oregon. No money or reputation that any single state could afford to give would be an inducement for anyone to write its history, as Mr Bancroft is doing it, and place it in all the principal public and private libraries of the world. But in purchasing the full set, the citizen of Nevada, or of British Columbia is assisting the author to write, and the publisher to place the history of their country in the hands of influential persons who would never otherwise have them.

And finally, the moment the works are offered to purchasers in sub-divisions, the efforts of the publishers to place the work in the hands of intelligent and progressive men throughout the world, thereby exerting the greatest influence and securing the greatest benefits to the country whose history is thus given, must cease ; the expenses of so placing the works would far exceed the sales. In other words, we have to sell the works only in complete sets or cease our efforts in that direction.

The objection raised by some during the earlier stages of publication, that possibly the volumes may never all of them be published, has been met by the prompt appearance of the several volumes thus far in such a way as to inspire confidence for the future. Three-fourths of the work is already done, and the remainder as good as done. In a word, the publishers are prepared to assure subscribers of the completion of the work beyond question.



## WHAT IS BEING SAID OF MR HUBERT H. BANCROFT AND HIS LITERARY WORK.

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### STYLE.

"His style is clear and without affectation, recalling the straightforward simplicity of Herodotus."—*London Westminster Review*.

"He writes well and gracefully."—*New York Sun*.

"I am full of admiration at the immense reading it displays, and at the singular, vivid, and graceful English in which that reading is expressed."—*W. H. Lecky*.

"The work is intensely interesting. Mr Bancroft's style is clear, his arrangement of materials judicious, and his symmetry admirable."—*Chicago Journal*.

"Striking passages are welded together with a logical cohesion so strict that it is almost impossible to detach them."—*New York Herald*.

"I am particularly pleased with the sharp, condensed form in which the facts are given."—*Oliver Wendell Holmes*.

"Mr Bancroft's style deserves great commendation."—*S. F. Bulletin*.

"The information has been digested into a flowing and entertaining narrative."—*New York Observer*.

"Clear, concise, forcible, and well-adapted to the requirement of modern students."—*Overland Monthly*.

### ABILITY.

"He has applied the scientific methods of history-writing in a manner never before dreamed of."—*Record-Union*.

"Beyond all the patient labor in marshaling details, Mr Bancroft shows also a sound, healthy, literary judgment."—*Atlantic Monthly*.

"He has investigated with the most conscientious care and criticised with no little skill the enormous mass of official documents which in different ways relate to his subject; and he has digested the results of his laborious toil into a narrative clear, logical and attractive."—*London Times*.

"You have handled a complex, sometimes even tangled and tautological subject, with much clearness and discrimination."—*J. R. Lowell*.

"The plan of the great work has been honored in the execution."—*Daily Oregonian*.

"It is a monument of well-directed industry and great ability,"—*Edinburgh Scotsman*.

"A lasting monument to the scholarship and ability of its author."—*Louisville Courier-Journal*.

"The industry, the sound judgment, and the excellent literary style displayed in this work cannot be too highly praised. It stands quite alone of its class in this department."—*Boston Post*.

"Mr Prescott was carried away by his vivid imagination, and errs in excess. Mr Morgan errs in the opposite direction. Mr Bancroft avoids both extremes. Without such preliminary work as that which has been done by Mr Bancroft, a history would be impossible."—*Edinburgh Review*.

"The manner in which you have sifted and weighed the testimony, derived as it is from various and sometimes contradictory sources; the penetration and impartiality you have displayed in discarding whatever is erroneous or doubtful, and accepting that only which is well authenticated, would be creditable in a judicial investigation."—*J. Ross Browne*.

"Never was a large library more thoroughly ransacked or more completely laid under tribute by a writer."—*The Nation*.

"When Mr Bancroft expresses opinions of his own, or discourses on the bearing and significance of the observations of others, he performs the part of the enlightened critic with much shrewdness and modesty."—*London Telegraph*.

"Every reader must admire the single-heartedness with which he devotes himself to the investigation of facts. His volumes are really a marvel of research and discrimination. Although he does not conceal his consciousness of a mission, he shows no trace of the credulity with which specialists are apt to pursue the inquiries to which they have devoted their lives. His sound judgment is no less apparent on the pages of his work than his indefatigable diligence and supreme self-devotedness. No one but an enthusiast could grapple with such a task, but his enthusiasm is without weakness, and is inspired by the pure love of knowledge, not by the caprices of sentiment. Hence it is of the quality demanded for the successful accomplishment of one of the foremost literary enterprises of the day."—*New York Tribune*.

"What good sense, painstaking labor, and honesty in purpose can hope to achieve, Mr Bancroft has accomplished."—*London Standard*.

"Nothing seems to have been too minute to escape his eyes."—*Boston Transcript*.

"The history of literature does not contain many examples of a grander literary purpose, a more thorough preparation, or a more successful achievement."—*Boston Congregationalist*.

#### THE WORK.

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